



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

January 2011



Everyday is New Years Day *Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs*

We celebrate New Years on January 1st with a service at 10 am. Most of you will receive this newsletter after the first and I hope you joined us for that service. In any case, I hope you are enjoying the beginning of a happy New Year. While January first is an arbitrary date, the beginning of a New Year is a reality. It takes about 365 days for the earth to orbit the sun and the cycle really does begin again with the start of a new year.

January first is a good time to celebrate New Years' Day and I hope it is/was a good day for you. Since marrying a young woman from Japan, festive O Sho Gatsu foods, seichi ryori, have become a large part of my experience of New Years. I especially enjoy the sweet black beans. A simple thing like special seasonal foods can help us to attune to the rhythms of this life, to the movements of this planet. Acknowledging the seasonal changes and the rotation of the year is an important part of being grounded biological persons who are sensitive to the planet on which we live. Still, there is a deep Buddhist sense in which each day is New Years. Each day is a new beginning.

Each day is, as it were, New Years' Day. Can we get up in the morning and think, "A new day, a new year, - let's start all over again?" I hope that this still fresh and New Year of 2011 can feel like starting over for all of us. The Buddha encourages us to renew our lives. As James Joyce put it to his last and ultimate protagonist, "Finnegan, - begin again."

As always, the most important event for our temple in January is the Ho On Ko service. This year our guest speaker will be Dr. Nobuo Haneda, Director of the Maida Center of Buddhism. He will give a Japanese-language Dharma message at 9:30 am on Sunday January 16. This year we are able to hold our service on the meinichi, or exact return of the day, of Shinran's passing into the Pure Land. Our main service will begin at 10 am on January 16 and Dr. Haneda will give an English-language Dharma message at that time.

He is also our presenter for the Ho On Ko seminar on Saturday January 15 from 10 am to 4 pm. The title of the seminar is "Shakyamuni and Shinran: Buddhism as a teaching of self-examination." Although we will accept donations that Saturday we will not solicit them. The seminar is offered at no charge. It has been a decade since Dr. Haneda was here last. He is a much requested speaker so I hope many of you will come out to take advantage of this opportunity to hear his way of explaining the Buddha-dharma.

As always, on Sundays not on the "special service calendar" such as Ho On Ko is, we have vocal nembutsu sessions in our main chapel or hondo from 9:30 am to 9:50 am. This month that will be January 1st, 8th, 22nd, and 29th. I hope more of you may consider joining us for these sessions in which we enjoy uttering and hearing the nembutsu in forms like "Namo Amida Butsu." This simple phrase can remind us of our convictions and of our deep connection to a source of kindness. Come join us one Sunday morning at 9:30 and see if twenty minutes of vocalizing the nembutsu doesn't improve the quality of your day.

Let me one more time wish you all a very Happy New Year

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

January Highlights

Jan 1	New Year's Service, Shusho-E	10 am
Jan 9	OBT New Year's Luncheon	11:30 am
Jan 15	Hoonko Seminar	10 am
Jan 16	Hoonko Service	9:30 am
	Installation of Temple Officers	
Jan 22	OBWA New Years Luncheon	10:30 am
	Holladay Park Plaza Penthouse	

"The purpose of the Oregon Buddhist Temple is to insure that the Jodo Shinshu Sangha have the facilities, resident minister and other resources they need to share the BuddhaDharma in their daily lives and during their major life events."

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This monthly newsletter is published by the Oregon Buddhist Temple, a Buddhist Churches of America temple affiliated with Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-Ha. Please contact the temple with any comments, questions or concerns, or if you wish to report a change of address. Send news items to the editors: Shinya Ichikawa and Jayne Ichikawa, sjichi@gmail.com



Akemashite omedeto gozaimasu!

Ken Garner
2011 OBT Board President

Happy New Year! One of my tasks as the temple president is to write a monthly column for the temple newsletter. I have heard some of the previous presidents mention that the hardest part of being temple president was writing this column. For the past couple of weeks this column has been bouncing around in my head, not really coming together. "What ever you say," advised Maho (my wife), "just keep it short." Now that it is the day of the deadline, I guess I need to finally get it down on paper.

The Oregon Buddhist Temple is vital in providing a refuge for those on the Pureland Path in the greater Portland area and beyond. It is here we can hear, learn, and share the Dharma. The function of the Board and subsequently my job as president is to ensure the viability of OBT and to strengthen our Sangha. In 2011, we face many challenges. Our financial situation is not where we would like it to be. Our procurement process needs to be tightened. Our facility has some maintenance issues and projects that need to be addressed. Our Sangha has a growing and changing membership base. We need to find ways to fulfill our role in the Japanese American community and maintain our traditional character as well as welcome and integrate new members from diverse backgrounds. These challenges are daunting but by no means insurmountable. They each, in their own way, provide us the opportunity to make OBT stronger.

In spite of these challenges, overall OBT is in good shape. We have been in Portland for 107 years and have a rich history and traditions which sustain us. We have an active, welcoming Sangha. Our events (including seminars, nembutsu retreats, fund raisers, and more) are well received and well attended. The Dharma School, especially the Lumbini class, is growing. Each week we meet new people attending an OBT service for the first time. And we have the Dharma. Our foundation is strong and our future is bright.

OBT is not just the Board or our resident minister. OBT is the entire temple membership. The greater OBT community includes friends of the temple and extends to everyone who walks through our doors. OBT would not exist without you. I invite you all to become involved. We have committees that need volunteers. We have events which need somebody to chair and people to help out. There are activities, both fund raising and social, which have yet to be conceived but which can and should be done. We need your talents, your ideas, your efforts. In short, we need you, long-time and brand new members alike. I know that since I have gotten involved, I have benefited at least as much as OBT has. It truly is a two way street. Contact me or any of the Board members with your ideas and/or if you want to volunteer. We value your input.

Being entrusted with the OBT presidency is an honor and a humbling experience. The past presidents have left some pretty big shoes to fill. I want to thank our 2010 president,

Kim Kono, for the outstanding job she did. I also want to thank Yoshi Ono and Angie Hughes for accepting the positions as Vice President and Secretary respectively and the rest of the 2011 Board in advance for their service to OBT, our Sangha. I look forward to a great 2011.

In Gassho

2011 OBT Board of Directors

Terms ends 2011

Ken Garner - President, Yoshi Ono - Vice-President,
David Wright, Elaine Yuzuriha

Term ends 2012

Angie Hughes - Secretary, Kim Kono, Joe Wahl, Zack Semke

Term ends 2013

Amy Long, Amy Peterson, Carol Saiget, Teresa Soto de Roman

Appointed non-Board position

Shinya Ichikawa - Financial Officer

2011 New Year's Luncheon January 9

January 9, 2011 is the date for our annual New Year's Luncheon. It will be held directly after Sunday service. This year the meal will be catered by Chef Naoko and the menu includes: tofu dengaku (grilled tofu with sweet miso sauce), yakitori (chicken skewers), osechi namasu (vinegared vegetables), nimono hijiki (simmered sea vegetable), nimame (stewed soy beans), and black & white rice. The cost is \$10 per meal. Because we are having the luncheon catered, reservation forms are required. Deadline for the registration forms and payment is Sunday January 2, 2011. Registration forms can be found in this newsletter, at the temple, or on the OBT website. As is our tradition, meals for those 80 years of age and older are complimentary, although we will still need a reservation form to ensure a proper count. We look forward to a delicious meal and celebrating the New Year with you. Contact Ken Garner at hkgarner@comcast.net or 503-270-6969 or Jayne Ichikawa at sjichi@frontier.com if you have any questions about the luncheon.



OBWA news

Nancy Kajitsu

The OBWA New Years party will again be held at the Holladay Park Plaza Penthouse on January 22nd beginning at 10:30. The cost will be \$10 for a Japanese bento style luncheon being planned. Please bring your donations for the Oregon Food Bank and stocking stuffers such as sampler shampoo, hand lotions, toothpaste, etc. Also, you may pay your \$10 OBWA dues at this time. Please RSVP Alice Ando at 503-256-9086. If you need transportation, Alice can help

you, too.

A budget report has finally come together because of the very thorough job of June Shiigi and committee. Many people helped, but June did all of the legwork. A very grateful board is indebted to June. Thank You!

Tacoma Buddhist Temple is hosting the Northwest Convention this year. The OBWA again voted to subsidize your registration in the amount of \$45. Please fill out your registration forms and check the box that you are an OBWA member. Turn your registration form for your amount to OBT. Carol Saiget is collecting registrations.

A visit will be made to our dedicated member, Nobu Matsuoka, who fell in her home. We wish you a speedy recovery.

In Gassho



Lotus circle – January

Jean Matsumoto

As the Lotus Circle begins its 4th year of existence, OBT thanks all who have joined in this effort to always have beautiful flowers on the niajin (altar) each Sunday for our services. This is a way to not only remember loved ones who have passed on but to also show our gratitude to so many of our parents and grandparents who are responsible for leaving us the Oregon Buddhist Temple as their legacy.

Altar flowers for the month of January 2011 are being provided by donations from:

- January 2 – Merrie Greenwood in memory of (imo) father, Joe Chiyozo Shiramizu; Takako Ishida imo parents, Seiichi and Tomiye Takahashi; Jean Matsumoto imo mother, Mikiye
- January 9 - Open
- January 16 – Ben Ishida imo parents, Suetaro and Tomeka; Chris Dart imo brother, Richard Dale Hoverson
- January 23 – Angie Nakashima imo father, Harry Okita; Kathie Sato imo husband, Nobu
- January 30 – Alice Sumida imo parents, Tameji and Taka Eto.

Thank you to all the above January donors. As we begin a new year, we would like also to acknowledge the members of the Flower Toban, the ladies who take turns picking up the flowers each week from Kern Park Florists and arranging them for us. They are: Susan Endecott, Yasuko Fields, Kiyoko Gibbs, Jayne Ichikawa, Misa Kodama, Nobuko Nishimura, Janice Okamoto, Tomoko Ono, Etsu Osaki, June Shiigi, and Miho Weinstein. We are appreciative of your efforts. Thank you to Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) who makes it possible to share information about your loved ones on the Lotus Circle Page of the OBT website. Please check it out. You are all welcome to join the Lotus Circle. For information, call Jean Matsumoto at 503-280-2463, or e-mail jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

NW District Convention in Tacoma, Feb. 11-13, 2011

For questions concerning registration, contact Carol Saiget kongsfam@comcast.net or 360 834-7806.

2011 Memorial Chart

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2010	1 year	1989	23 year
2009	3 year	1985	27 year
2005	7 year	1979	33 year
1999	13 year	1975	37 year
1995	17 year	1962	50 year

If you would like to have a memorial service performed for loved ones or ancestors, please make arrangements with Rev. Gibbs as early as possible.

January Toban

Abe, Al	Achterman, Marilyn
Achterman, Mark	Bagnall, Alden
Davis, Ryan	Dickinson, Kiyomi
Fujikawa, Frieda	Fujikawa, Shigeo
Hughes-Davis, Angie	Ikemiya, Cheryl
Ishimaru, Bettina	Ishimaru, Robert
Kajitsu, Nancy	Kasahara, Mae
Kennedy, Karol	Shiraishi, Karen
Shiraishi, Rick	Swann, LaRhett
Takemoto, May	Tamiyasu, Katie
Wong, Cynthia	Wong, Gordon
Yoshida, Carl	Yoshida, Jim
Yoshida, Mary	

Toban not only means "my turn" but "my chance" to show my appreciation to all the men and women whose monetary donations and hard work resulted in this beautiful place, our Temple, to hear theDharma

Words of Jean Matsumoto - 1995



"Honen and Shinran"

Reviewed by June Shiigi

On November 14, 2010, I had the pleasure of attending the Zenshinza Theatre Company's performance of "Honen and Shinran" at the Zellerbach Auditorium in Berkeley, California. Zenshinza is the oldest and largest repertory theater company in Japan. Kawarasaki Chojuro and Nakamura Kanemon, two of the greatest kabuki actors, founded it in 1931. "Honen and Shinran" was written by Tajima Sakae in commemoration of the 800th Memorial

Anniversary of Honen Shonin and the 750th Memorial Anniversary of Shinran Shonin.

On the day of the performance, a group of us gathered at the Jodo Shinshu Center where Rev. Kodo Umezu gave a brief history of Honen (1133-1212) and Shinran (1173-1263). He mentioned that in July of this year, he was asked to do the English translation for the performances in Los Angeles, Berkeley and Honolulu. Rev. Umezu also mentioned that the company had visited the United States about 2 years ago to look into the possibility of having the cast perform here after their performances in Japan.

As the stage drama opens, young Honen's father has been killed and his mother implores him to not avenge his father's death but to find a path of freedom. Thus, Honen seeks a life of searching for the meaning of life as a monk. This sets the theme. He retreats to Mt. Hiei for 30 years of intense studies, spreading his teachings to many. Shinran seeks Honen as his master. As Honen's followers increase, Honen, Shinran and others are exiled to remote parts of Japan. Living amongst the common villagers, ruffians, those with little optimism, Shinran is able give them hope through his Nembutsu teachings.

This is a simplified description of "Honen and Shinran". However, if you would like to see the full version, it will be available on DVD. I am hoping there will be English subtitles.

The performance I saw was in Japanese with English translations projected above and displayed on monitors close to the stage. After the intermission, however, Shinran's wife appears speaking in English. As the curtain opens, a group of villagers speak alternately in English and Japanese, and then gradually transitions back to speaking only in Japanese. What a charming way to acknowledge the English-speaking audience.

I thought the costumes looked very authentic, the sceneries simple but effective and the acting excellent. I hope to see "Honen and Shinran" once again on DVD.

Year end kudos

Jean Matsumoto

It seems to me that it's been too long since OBT members who do routine jobs monthly, year after year, for the Temple have been acknowledged and maybe taken for granted.

First of all, this newsletter comes to you through the efforts of quite a few people. I don't know how many years Shinya Ichikawa has been principle editor of this publication, but every month he makes sure that all of us are informed as to what is going on or what activities are coming up. He makes sure that people contribute articles for publication and prints the issues. When he is not able to take care of the printing himself, Jerry Fugate is called in to cover. Currently, with the new copier in place, Ray Fields is a major force when it comes to printing the newsletter.

Then there was the "collating" crew, which needs a new name. The new copier collates, which was a very time-

consuming job done by hand, so now the workers just add the address label and calendar page, fold and tape the pages (no stapling is allowed). Led by Brenda Fugate, Jerry and Ray, the following volunteers are known to socialize while doing this job: Marlene Moro, Karol Kennedy, Michael and Janice Ishii, Elaine and Joy Yuzuriha, Amy Peterson and Susan Endecott. Thank you all. Anyone who has the time after service on one Sunday a month is welcome to help.

The Oregon Buddhist Women's Association has a group of newsletter reporter who take turns writing an article for each issue if Pureland Path and we acknowledge: Etsu Osaki, Jayne Ichikawa, Alice Ando, June Shiigi, Katie Tamiyasu, Jean Matsumoto and Nancy Kajitsu.

Do you wonder who takes care of the obuppan (rice offering on the altar) each month? Did you know we have an Obuppan Toban who cook and make the rounded mounds of rice which fit perfectly on the brass offering bowls placed before all of the altars? Members are: Misa Kodama, Kyoko Gibbs, Kay Inouye and Etsu Osaki.

Then, there are some tedious jobs that have to be done, sometimes monthly, sometimes every so often. Kyoko Gibbs, Toban-Cho (head of the tobans), has one of those jobs which she took over after Brenda Fugate had been Toban-Cho for about five years. And guess who comes up with those work schedules for the Spring Bazaar, Fall Sukiyaki Bazaar, Mochitsuki year after year? Yup, Etsu and Jean and Marilyn Achterman. We are all open to suggestions for change.

I know I've left a lot of people out, but I hope that all of you who do jobs silently around the temple know that you are much appreciated. Our Temple couldn't survive without all of our members and friends.

OBT community partner for mochitsuki

Ann Ishimaru

- Mochitsuki - 15th Annual Japanese American New Year Celebration
- When: January 30 11am-4pm
- Where: Scottish Rite Center, 1512 SW Morrison St., Portland

Changes are afoot with the annual celebration of the New Year! Now that the Temple's mochitsuki is done, come and join the community in a new-and-improved celebration of mochi and the Year of the Rabbit. As always, you'll get to see steamed rice pounded into mochi with huge mallets the old fashioned way. But this year, you'll pay a single admission fee to get a feast for the senses. Sample mochi, ozoni (New Year's soup with mochi) and taste locally made sake. Grab lunch from the sushi train, or have some authentic curry or organic Japanese cuisine. And kids can participate in hands-on activities like making kid's bento or playing traditional games. Three different stage shows will showcase a range from classical Japanese dance (like our own Tachibana dancers and Ann Shintani, pictured here!) to the Minidoka Swing Band, and from Portland Taiko to ninja acrobatics and J-pop.

As a community partner supporting this event, OBT will

be selling dorayaki at a booth and sharing information about the temple (please contact Ken Garner if you are willing to help take a shift at the OBT table). Many of you already volunteer or perform at the event, but for those who do not, we get access to advanced tickets free of service charges (\$3-7) – prices will go up at the door, so don't wait! Talk to Ann Ishimaru to place your order by January 9 (annishimaru@yahoo.com, 503-232-1864).

Ann Shintani performing a previous JACL Mochitsuki
Photo courtesy of Rich Iwasaki



Oregon Buddhist Temple November 2010 Donations

In memory of Yoshihe Shoji

In memory of Mitsuru Kagi Shoji

In memory of May Yoshie Shoji

In memory of George Tatsuo Shoji

In memory of Orga Fusae Morishita

In memory of Mr. Yaokichi Otsuka

In memory of Mrs. Otsuka

In memory of Otsuka infant daughter

Mabel K. Boggs

In memory of Kay N. Toyooka

In memory of Fumie Toyooka

In memory of Lulu C. Lee

Martin & Carol Lee

In memory of Tomiko Iwasaki

Robert & Ilse Lokting

Herb & Etsu Osaki (to Hishinuma Fund)

Friends of Marcia Iwasaki

Diane Shea, Laura Hughes, Liz Haven

Molly Martin, Pam Gray, Rose Hecker

Sally Gregg, Susan Heath

In memory of Rev. & Mrs. T. Ichikawa

Herb & Etsu Osaki

Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa

Joseph & Lora Wahl

In memory of Irene Junko Stumpf

Richard D. Stumpf

In memory of Beatrice T. Serikaku

James T. Serikaku

In memory of Kow & Tom Mukaida

Anonymous

In memory of Kinaye Mori

Nobuko Azumano

Marcus Hishinuma memorial

Joseph & Lora Wahl

Anonymous

Lotus Circle

Jean Matsumoto

Angela & Glenn Nakashima

Cathy Shikatani & Willem Stoeller

Dennis & Sandra Yamauchi

Shizuko Ouchida

Yearend donations

LaRhette Swann

Lily Meiners

Sumiko Ikata

Junko & Kenshi Iwao Toll

Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha

Special donations

Jean Matsumoto (seminar)

Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha (organ repair)

Herb & Etsu Osaki (organ repair)

Scott Oldfield & Tracy Joy Babione

Joann H. Ng (via United Way)

Lily Meiners

Japan-America Society of Oregon

Eitaikyo

Anonymous (5)

Shoun & Grace Ishikawa

Lily Meiners

Nobuo & Takako Ishida

May N. Saito

Sahomi Tachibana

Pat & Tom Hokama

Richard & Kumiko Mishima

Fumi Saito

Grace & Katsuya Amasuga

Kimiko Iwamoto

Grace Aoki

Ayako Minamishin

Henry & Eulia Mishima

May Takemoto

Kim Kono

Jean Matsumoto

Connie Masuoka

Ernest Takeda

Eitaikyo (Cont.)

Kan & Miyeko Yagi

Yoshio & Sachiko Hasuike

Alice Sumida

Nobuko Masuoka

Kiyomi Dickinson

Cynthia & Gordon Wong

Yoshie Kagawa

Misao Minagi

Fusako Ouchida

Shizuko Ouchida

Haru Furukawa

Hisako Kakishita

Dana Kakishita

Misako Kodama

Karen R. Scapple

Janice Okamoto

Atsuko Richards

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Shigeo & Frieda Fujikawa

Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha

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Carol & William Saiget

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Michael & Janice Ishii

Alice Ando

Ami Kinoshita

May Kasahara

Tsuyako Monas

Rose T. Ikata

Mary T. Okita

Alan Kasubuchi

Mitsugi Tamiyasu

Teruko Nishikawa

Toshiko Hayashi

Randy & Dana Kunisaki

Hiro Takeuchi

Ben & Sumie Ishida

Tammy Herold

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Eitaikyo (Cont.)

Sumiko Ikata

Mike & Shizue Yasui

Katie & Ed Tamiyasu

George & Chiho Okita

Roberta Ando

Fumiko Okubo

Ben & Sumie Ishida

Jim & Jean Takashima

Alfred Ono

K. D. Itamura

Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa

2010 membership donations

Alfred Ono

Haru Furukawa

Karen R. Scapple

Katie & Ed Tamiyasu

Minoru (Wm) Koida

Kenneth Yasutome

Lynn Grannan

Tammy Herold

Terri Ann Carrollo

Charlene F. Roberts

2011 membership donations

Tadakazu Kumashiro

Kenneth Yasutome

Sumiko Ikata

Nami Sasaki

Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha

Member pledge donations

Helena Heartt

Kim Kono

Jean Matsumoto

Katie Bretsch

Gary Higashi

Ann Ishimaru & Zach Semke

Jean Matsumoto

Susan Endecott

**OBT New Year's Service & Party
Sunday January 9, 2010**

*Come celebrate the New Year
10:00 a.m. service & 11:30 a.m. party*

*bentos catered by Chef Naoko natural and organic cuisine
\$10 per person*

To honor our elders, members 80 years old and over will be our guests.
*Everyone is encouraged to bring their grandparents, children, and friends young and old.
An alternative lunch will be provided for children not ordering the bento.
Please preorder your bento using the form below. **Deadline: January 2nd, 2011***

OBT New Year's Service & Luncheon

Participant's name (please print)	Check if 80 and over	Participant's name (please print)	Check if 80 and over
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

# paid bentos _____	x \$10 =	\$ enclosed _____	# complimentary meals _____
Number of children not ordering bento _____			

Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Avenue
Portland, OR 97202

**Make check payable to the OBT. Mail above form and payment by January 2nd, 2011.
For questions, contact Ken Garner at hkgarner@comcast.net or 503-270-6969.**

**OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE
MEMBERSHIP 2011
NEW OR RENEWAL REGISTRATION**

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

E MAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP DONATION:
 INDIVIDUAL: MINIMUM \$200.00 PER INDIVIDUAL ADULT
 FAMILY: MINIMUM \$400.00 PER FAMILY
 SILVER: \$500.00 PER MEMBER With silver and gold membership you receive our deep appreciation and your name
 GOLD: \$1000.00 PER MEMBER will be listed in the newsletter as special donors, unless you request not to be listed.

OR YOU MAY MAKE PAYMENTS OF A MINIMUM \$20.00 PER MONTH OR A MINIMUM \$60.00 PER QUARTER

Membership allows voting privileges, a subscription to Wheel of Dharma newsletter from Buddhist Churches of America, and most importantly, demonstrates your support of the Oregon Buddhist Temple.

ENCLOSED MEMBERSHIP FEE _____	Drop off this form and a check or mail both to:
ADDITIONAL DONATION _____	Oregon Buddhist Temple
TOTAL ENCLOSED _____	3720 SE 34th Avenue
	Portland, Oregon 97202

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE